

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) An optical recording medium comprising:
two or more recording layers spaced apart from each other, and

dielectric layers each formed in a vicinity of one of the recording layers, ~~at least one of said dielectric layers that is formed in a vicinity of one of the recording layers that is closest to a light incidence plane containing an oxide as a primary component and nitrogen as an additive~~ the dielectric layer located on the side of a light incidence plane with respect to the associated recording layer containing an oxide selected from a group consisting of Ta₂O₅ and TiO₂ as a primary component and nitrogen as an additive.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 15, wherein each of the recording layers includes a first recording film containing an element selected from a group consisting of Si, Ge, Sn, Mg, C, Al, Zn, In, Cu, Ti and Bi as a primary component and a second recording film containing an element selected from a group consisting of Cu, Al, Zn and Ag and different from the element contained as a primary component in the first recording film as a primary component.

18.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 15, wherein the two or more recording layers are constituted so that data can be recorded therein by a laser beam having a wavelength of 380 nm to 450 nm.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 17, wherein the second recording film is formed so as to be in contact with the first recording film.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 17, wherein the first recording film contains an element selected from a group consisting of Si, Ge and Sn as a primary component.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 17, wherein the second recording film contains Cu as a primary component.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 17, wherein the second recording film is added with an element selected from the group consisting of Cu, Al, Zn, Ag, Mg, Sn, Au, Ti and Pd and different from the element contained in the first recording film as a primary component.

30. (Canceled)

31. (New) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 21, wherein the dielectric layer contains Ta_2O_5 as the primary component and wherein the dielectric layer contains one to twelve atomic % of nitrogen as an additive.

32. (New) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 31, wherein the dielectric layer contains two to ten atomic % of the nitrogen as the additive.

33. (New) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 21, wherein the dielectric layer contains Ta_2O_5 as the primary component and wherein the dielectric layer contains one to five atomic % of nitrogen as an additive.

34. (New) An optical recording medium in accordance with Claim 33, wherein the dielectric layer contains two to four atomic % of the nitrogen as the additive.